Appointment of non-Indians as pilots in domestic Airlines

2182. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some domestic airlines/airways have employed non-Indians as their pilots on higher emoluments/perks; and

(b) if so, whether trained Indian pilots are not available in the country or their talent is not upto the expectation of domestic airlines/airways authority?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) In accordance with the existing policy a domestic air transport sector operator is permitted to employ foreign pilots/engineers till he is able to train his own manpower. However, it is permitted only with the express approval of the competent authority and for such period and terms as may be prescribed by the said authority.

At present no foreign pilot is operating flights of any scheduled domestic airlines. However, foreign pilots have been permitted to operate international cargo flights and helicopters within the country for a limited period till sufficient number of Indian pilots are trained by the operators and acquire appropriate licence and adequate experience to replace the foreign pilots. Emoluments and perks are fixed by the Indian operator considering various factors.

Shortage of trained Indian pilots generally occurs when newer types of aircraft, not earlier used in India, are used by a domestic operator.

इन्दौर विमानपत्तन का विकास

2183. **श्री राधाकिशन मालवीय:** क्या नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या इन्दौर विमानपत्तन के विकास और विस्तार के लिये अतिरिक्त भूमि आवंटित करने हेतु एक प्रस्ताव मध्य प्रदेश सरकार के पास भेजा गया है क्योंकि इन्दौर एक प्रमुख औद्योगिक नगर है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इन्दौर विमानपत्तन के विकास कार्य को कब तक पूरा कर लिया जाएगा?

नागर विमानन मंत्री (श्री अनंत कुमार): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) यह प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Delayed flight services at metro cities

2184. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian Airlines flights from and to the four Metropolitan cities viz. Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai and Mumbai got delayed in the last three years; and

(b) whether the delays were due to fog in Delhi; if so, what steps Government have taken to overcome the fog-menace?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The details of Indian Airlines/ Alliance Air flights delayed from the four Metro cities of Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai and Mumbai during the last three years are as under:—

	Total Take offs.	Delays due to weather	Other delays	Total delays
1996	70188	1208	18026	19234
1997	77180	1624	21721	23345
1998	73511	1433	19561	20994

To overcome the menace of fog in

Delhi and cities of Northern Region, it has been decided to instal CAT III ILS at the main runway of Delhi Airport and CAT II ILS at Lucknow, Jammu and Amritsar airports.

Contingency plan to meet strikes by Air Traffic Controllers

2185. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any contingency plans to cope up with the situation of regular strikes and agitations by the Air Traffic Controllers;

(b) whether Government have taken any stringent action against the striking Air Traffic Controllers who are holding the public and the organisation to ransom by resorting to 'tactics of go-slow and disruptions; and

(c) whether Government have formulated any plan to avoid future agitations and disruptions by these ATCs'?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A notification under the Haryana Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1974 as extended to the National Capital Territory of Delhi has been published in the Gazette on 16-02-1999 declaring air traffic services as essential services. A notification has also been issued authorising certain officers the power of arrest, investigation and prosecution under the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Civil Aviation Act, 1982 as amended from time to time. Airports Authority of India has approached the High Court of Delhi for initiating contempt proceedings against the Air Traffic Controllers' Guild (ATCG) and restraining that body from resorting to go-slow agitation, thereby disrupting the flight schedules which cause immense hardship to the travelling public. ATCG has given an asssurance to the Delhi High Court that there shall be no disruption of flight schedules. AAI has taken strict disciplinary action by dismissing six delinquent air traffic controllers under its Employees Conduct Discipline and Appeal Regulations. This entire matter is receiving the close attention of the Government.

Recruitment of Trainee Pilots in Air India

2186. SHRI JAGDAMBI MANDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any examination/interview was conducted for the posts of trainee pilots in Air India reserved for SC/ST and OBC on the basis of advertisement published in November, 1998;

(b) if so, the number of candidates selected and appointed;

(c) if not, the reassons for the delay in issuing the letters of appointment; and

(d) by what time the same will be issued?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Air India did not issue any advertisement in November, 1998 for the examination/ interview for the posts of trainee pilots reserved for SC/ST and OBC.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Replacement of non-working X-ray machine at Imphal Airport

2187. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the X-ray machine installed at the Imphal Airport is not working; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken up to replace it and when?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The X-Ray machine at Imphal